
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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Petersburg Area Office
16 Sing Lee Alley
Petersburg, Alaska 99983
Date: April 19, 2013
Time: 3:00 p.m.

PETERSBURG/WRANGELL HERRING UPDATE #6

The department conducted aerial surveys on Friday, April 19, of Ernest Sound and Hobart Bay areas between 9:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. The survey conditions were decent with partly cloudy skies and winds between 20 and 25 mph.

Ernest Sound

Today's survey was the second survey over the past 3 days with no herring or active herring spawn observed, likely indicating that herring spawning is done for the season. The final cumulative miles of shoreline receiving spawn was ~5.5 nautical miles. The spawn was primarily located on the south shore of Vixen Inlet and extended south to Union Point. The R/V Kestrel completed the spawn deposition survey on Wednesday, April 17. There were a total of 30 pound structures and 83 permit holders on the grounds. All pounds received herring and the spawn-on-kelp product was reported to be good. Final harvest tallies are not yet available. Today's aerial survey was likely the final survey for Ernest Sound.

Hobart Bay/Port Houghton

No herring schools or herring spawn were observed during today's survey of the Hobart Bay/Port Houghton area. The marine mammal and bird activity increased, but were still concentrated offshore of Entrance Island. Herring activity in Farragut Bay often predates herring activity in the Hobart Bay/Port Houghton area by a few days. Farragut Bay showed increased marine mammal and bird activity with 43 sea lions, 2 whales, and 50 scooters observed, but no herring or herring spawn was observed. The next flight is scheduled for Monday, April 22.

2013 Herring Summary

Ernest Sound

April 1	Fishery opened for the pound fishery.
April 3	No herring activity, 45 sea lions.
April 5	No herring activity, 40 sea lions.
April 8	No herring activity, 61 sea lions.
April 10	No herring activity, 43 sea lions, fishery activity increasing.
April 11	Department staff arrived on grounds, active fishing.
April 12	No herring activity, 123 sea lions, 1 whale, active fishing.
April 13	1.75 miles of active spawn, 180 sea lions, 1 whale, active fishing.
April 14	1.5 miles of active spawn, 218 sea lions, 2 whales, active fishing.
April 15	0.75 miles of active spawn, 150 sea lions, 1 whale, active fishing.
April 16	0.75 miles of active spawn, 86 sea lions, 1 whale, active harvesting of pounds.

April 17 No herring activity, 50 sea lions, 2,000 scooters, active harvesting of pounds.
April 19 No herring activity. Final survey.

Hobart Bay/Port Houghton

April 16 No herring activity, 71 sea lions, 2 whales, 100 scooters.
April 19 No herring activity, 102 sea lions, 550 scooters.

Pilots and Mariners transiting Ernest Sound or Hobart/Port Houghton are asked to report any herring activity or congregations of sea lions to the Wrangell or Petersburg Fish and Game offices.

Petersburg/Wrangell herring updates will be posted on the ADF&G web site listed below.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

<i>Office</i>	<i>Ketchikan</i>	<i>Petersburg</i>	<i>Wrangell</i>	<i>Sitka</i>	<i>Juneau</i>	<i>Haines</i>	<i>Hoonah</i>	<i>Yakutat</i>
<i>ADF&G</i>	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	945-3620	784-3220